

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above referenced application in view of the following remarks is requested. Claims 22 and 25 have been amended. Existing claims 1-3, 5, 7, 9-10, 16-19, and 21-28 remain in the application. Claim 30 has been newly added.

ARGUMENT

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 16-19 and 21-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Strom et al (US Patent No. 6,985,862) (hereinafter Strom) in view of Roberts et al (US Patent No. 5,027,406) (hereinafter Roberts).

The Examiner cited column 1, lines 36-56 of Strom as teaching “estimating a correctness measure based at least in part on the grammar file, wherein the correctness measure expresses if the output signal is a correct representation of the audio input signal,” recited in independent claims 16 and 25. Particularly, the Examiner argues that a score computed by an ASR system for an option, given an utterance, which is a combination of the acoustic score and the grammar weight, is a measure of “if the output signal is a correct representation of the audio signal.” Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The correctness measure recited in independent claims 16 and 25 are different from the score disclosed in the cited portion of Strom. As disclosed in the specification (see, e.g., page 9, lines 20-25; page 11, lines 20-30; page 12, lines 4-20) and recited in claims 16 and 25, the correctness measure actually tells whether the output from the recognition system is correct or not. In marked contrast, the score disclosed in the cited

portion of Strom measures the probability of how well an output matches the input utterance, based on acoustic information and grammatical information. This score does not tell whether the output is actually correct or not. It only shows whether the output is more likely to be correct than incorrect. It is well known that even if the score is a probability of "1" the output may still be a mismatch of the corresponding input utterance. For example, the ASR system may recognize "tell me stocks" as "tell me sports" with a probabilistic score of "1." Because the score disclosed in the cited portion of Strom does not tell whether the output signal is the correct representation of the input utterance, it is not same as or equivalent to the correctness measure as recited in independent claims 16 and 25. Therefore, Strom does not teach or suggest the correctness measure recited in these claims.

Because Roberts does not teach or suggest the correctness measure either, the combination of Strom and Roberts does not teach or suggest all of the limitations recited in independent claims 16 and 25. These two independent claims are thus patentable over Strom in view of Roberts. Accordingly, all claims that depend from these two claims (i.e., claims 17-19, 21-24, and 30; and claims 26-28) are also patentable over Strom in view of Roberts. Applicant respectfully requests that the 35 U.S.C. 103 rejections of claims 16-19 and 21-28 be withdrawn.

Additionally, Applicant notices that the combination of Strom and Roberts does not teach or suggest that estimating the correctness measure includes analyzing dialog progression. This limitation was originally recited in claim 22 as an alternative to other limitations. Claim 22 has been amended and the analyzing dialog progression limitation has been removed from claim 22 and included in a newly added claim 30. Furthermore,

the analyzing dialog progression limitation has been incorporated into independent claim 25. With this addition, claim 25 is further distinguished from the combination of Strom and Roberts, and should be allowed.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1 to 3, 5, 7, and 9 to 10 are allowed. Applicant gladly accepts the allowance of these claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, claims 1-3, 5, 7, 9-10, 16-19, 21-28, and 30 are all in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (503) 264-1700. Early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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